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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 006530

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/22/2015

TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [MNUC](#) [KNNP](#) [FR](#) [EUN](#)

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED TO FRENCH GOVERNMENT ON NORTH KOREAN ARMS TRADE

REF: STATE 173768

Classified By: Political Minister Counselor Josiah Rosenblatt for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (C) Poloff delivered reftel nonpaper to MFA desk officer for North Korea, Clea LeCardeur, on September 21 and to MFA action officer for Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) David Bertolotti and MFA Conventional Weapons action officer Jean-Francois Guillaume on September 22. Bertolotti said that France has for years been active in preventing North Korean transfer of weapons and weapons technology to third countries. In 2004, he recalled, the French participated in a multilateral push to prevent Nigeria from acquiring North Korean weapons technology. Bilaterally, he emphasized, France has no diplomatic relations with North Korea, adding that North Korea's only commercial airline was no longer allowed to fly in French airspace as it was recently 'blacklisted' in France. Furthermore, he said, the North Koreans -- notorious for striking weapons deals through diplomatic assets in country -- have only a small delegation at UNESCO and would "find it extremely difficult" to undertake such dealings in France. The French commitment to limiting North Korea's ability to engage in arms sales, he assured, would remain strong. Please visit Paris' Classified Website at: <http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/paris/index.cfm> STAPLETON